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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 002616

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SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR CA/VO/L, CA/FPP, CA/EX, WHA/AND

MEXICO FOR DHS
DHS FOR CAO

E.O.E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KFRD](#) [CVIS](#) [PGOV](#) [PE](#)

SUBJECT: Peruvian Congressman involved in visa fraud

Summary

1. (SBU) According to a recent investigative report in the newspaper "Correo" dated March 17, 2005, Peruvian Congressman Roger SANTA MARIA Del Aguila, DPOB: September 26, 1950, Peru, appears to have been involved in visa/passport fraud by fraudulently filing a birth registration for a child who is actually his step grandson. He obtained a diplomatic passport and non-immigrant visa for the child. The Peruvian Congressional Ethics Commission has reviewed the case but will not investigate further as the Congressman admitted he erred and subsequently corrected his step-grandson's documentation at Congress. On May 4, 2005 Post received a request for information from a Criminal Investigative Unit (DIRINCRI) prosecutor, regarding the child's visa. The biological parents have initiated judicial proceedings against the Congressman.

Background

2. (SBU) Congressman Santa Maria applied for and received a Peruvian diplomatic passport (number 0004696) for a child identified as John Andres Santa Maria Vargas DPOB: May 1, 1996, Peru. He submitted a birth registration from the district municipality of Padre Marquez showing the Congressman and his now ex-wife, Judith Vargas Gomez, as the biological parents. NIV records show that the child was issued a non-immigrant visa on February 18, 2002 based on a Peruvian Protocol Note received from the Foreign Ministry (YY/000185-02). The Congressman's ex-wife was also issued a non-immigrant visa the same day.

3. (U) Post confirmed that the child's true biological parents are John WAGNER Salmon and Judith Rocio MENDOZA Vargas, daughter of the Congressman's ex-wife. The couple registered the child in 1996 at the municipality of Jesus Maria, submitting a hospital record of birth for the registration. Post's Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU) confirmed the authenticity of this record. The minor is in fact the Congressman's step grandson.

4. (SBU) The biological father, John Bernabe WAGNER Salmon, DOB June 11, 1968, was issued a non-immigrant visa on January 12, 1999, expiration January 11, 2009. According to his Peruvian Immigration record of entries and exits, he resided in the U.S. from January 1999 to July 2001. DHS Lima confirmed that he did not apply for adjustment of status during that time. The biological mother, Judith Rocio MENDOZA Vargas, applied for a non-immigrant visa at post on two different occasions and was denied under section 214(b) of the INA. Her last application was shortly after the child's visa was issued and she appeared accompanied by another child, Annie Mia WAGNER Mendoza born March 4, 1999. She told the Consular Officer at that time that her husband was chief of security for the Congressman.

5. (SBU) According to Peruvian Immigration arrival and departure records, the Congressman's ex-wife, Judith Vargas de Santa Maria, and their daughter, Sofia Santa Maria Vargas have been residing in the U.S. since September 23, 2004. According to Peruvian Immigration departure and arrival records, the child, John WAGNER (AKA John SANTA MARIA), did not travel to the United States. Instead, he remained in Peru with his biological mother. Post believes the Congressman and his ex-wife were knowingly aiding and abetting the child's entry to the U.S.

Bio Note

6. (SBU) Congressman Santa Maria is a representative from Ucayali for the local political party Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana (APRA). A primary school teacher by profession, he is a member of the following congressional commissions: President of Amazonia and Indigenous Matters; Secretary of Education, Science and Culture; and Consumer

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Defense Commission. He is also the Ucayali Regional Director of National Penal Institute (INPE) and Vice President Banco

Materiales Pucallpa. He has shown considerable interest in the plight of coca growers and at times spoken in support of cocaleros.

Actions taken at Post

17. (SBU) Post has (1) revoked the child's visa under section 214(b) since the visa was issued under false pretenses; (2) revoked John Bernabe WAGNER Salmon's B1/B2 visa under section 214(b) due to his apparent unlawful presence in the U.S.; (3) entered a quasi 212(6)(E) hit in CLASS for Congressman Roger Santa Maria Del Aguila, DPOB: September 26, 1950, Peru. The Congressman and his ex-wife knowingly were aiding and abetting the child's entry to the U.S. when they obtained a false birth certificate for their grandson and used that to obtain a protocol note in support of his non-immigrant visa application. Post has notified all parties that their visas are no longer valid and requested that they come in for an interview in the Non-Immigrant visa section. Post will be submitting a separate request for action to the Department to revoke Mrs. Santa Maria's visa under section 212(a)(6)(E), as she is currently residing in the U.S.

Struble